

HB 482 -- WORKERS COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: Roden

Currently, the law provides that certain diseases of the respiratory and cardiovascular systems, including carcinoma, may be recognized as occupational diseases if a paid firefighter is exposed to certain substances. This bill includes volunteer firefighters in this definition of occupational disease.

The bill also provides for a rebuttable presumption that a paid or volunteer firefighter who contracts cancer has a compensable occupational disease under certain circumstances. The presumption arises if the firefighter was exposed to a known or probable carcinogen and has been assigned to at least five years of hazardous duty as a firefighter.

The bill also requires the Division of Workers Compensation to prepare a biannual report containing specified information about presumed cancers claims filed under the provisions of this bill.